[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not go into the details of this matter, because it is being discussed within and outside the House and reports about this matter are being published in various newspapers also. The Minister of Finance and the leader of the House are present here. When the news started appearing in the Press, it was the duty of the Government to clarify the matter *suo motu*, because with the passage of time, the doubt increases and the needle of suspicion points to one direction and it was the culmination of combined action of the then Government and its Head and industrialists, bureaucrats and other people associated with it. The leader of the House had made an announcement in the House yesterday that a statement on this matter would be made. Today the Finance Minister is also present in the House. The entire matter is being discussed for the last one week and the Government is completely silent over the matter. I would like to know as to why the statement would be made tomorrow? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that mere statement on this matter is not sufficient, instead there should be a thorough discussion on this subject under Rule 193. The matter is being discussed all over the world these days. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, Please don't speak like that.

[*English*]

We will see afterwards.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, the statement has to be comprehensive because it has many dimensions; it has international dimension; it has a dimension that encompasses the politicians and some of the bureaucrats of our country. It has another dimension of aiding the terrorists which is connected with the attempt to destabilise our country. It has sullied the image of our country.

So, when the statement is made, immediately we should have a discussion on the basis of the comprehensive statement. And then, we have to decide, as I said yesterday—the need will be there so far as I understand, to institute a House Committee also to look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We are going much beyond that.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I appreciate the sentiments expressed in this House I apologise to the House that I have not been able to come forward with a statement today. I need some time to collect all the facts and I promise you that by tomorrow I will be able to make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had given you a notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of more than 6000 Indians from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan who are stranded in Bombay due to want of emigration clearance. These 6000 people have already obtained valid employment visa from the Gulf countries. But they have been denied clearance by the Emigration Department in Bombay. The emigration clearance has been given to the

degree holders and diploma holders whereas the unskilled labour and also the manual labourers who have obtained employment visa with great difficulty have been denied.

May I also submit to the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour that any delay on our part to provide clearance will also result in the replacement of our labour force in the Gulf countries by Bangladeshis, Philippinos and Sri Lankans have been taking that place. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take it as a very serious matter. Especially now, our country is faced with economic crisis and also unemployment problem.

There are 6000 people who are living in agony and who are stranded in Bombay. They may also be helped.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Godda district of Bihar is an extremely backward area. This district was formed in 1983 and the maximum number of coal mines of the country are located in this area. There is a project called Rajmahal Project and till now no arrangement has been made to provide cooking gas to the people of this district. I have been writing to the Government of India even when I was an MLA in Bihar Assembly to set up an agency of cooking gas at the earliest in my district, but no arrangements have been made to supply cooking gas to the people in my backward area. Hon. Petroleum Minister is present here. I would like to urge him that keeping in view the backwardness of this area, a cooking gas agency may be set up in the headquarters of my District without any lapse of time so that the cooking gas is made available to the inhabitants of that place.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a cotton mill has been set up in Siwan district of Bihar with an investment of crores of rupees and that cotton mill is in the production stage. Despite that I regret to say that this cotton mill has not started functioning till date. I would like to urge upon the central Government through you that the cotton mill should start production immediately so that all the unemployed youths may get employment and the economic condition of that area may improve.

[*English*]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir, I rise to plead for a section of voiceless people who belong to the overwhelming silent majority, I mean the bonded labour. Bonded labour is prevalent on an alarmingly large-scale in this country. Nobody has been punished so far for persecuting, under-paying and oppressing them and for not giving them their remuneration and all that.

The National Commission which has been promised is not yet set up.

The Human Rights Commission recommended to the concerned UN Agencies that all loans and aid to such countries which do not exterminate this evil should be stopped.

No survey has been made to identify the bonded labour. It is our international commitment.

So, I would request the Government to take steps immediately for identifying them and then for subsequent extermination and abolition of the bonded labour.

SHRI R. SRIDHARAN (Madras South): Sir, Shri Vallabhai Patel Chest Institute in New Delhi is almost closed. The institution is in a dilapidated building in the university campus. There are no X-Ray films. Sputum and blood tests are not conducted for the last few days. No bi-weekly injections or bi-weekly medicines are given to the patients. The